

## CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

### WASTE UTILIZATION

(Acre)

CODE 633

#### DEFINITION

Using agricultural wastes such as manure and wastewater or other organic residues.

#### PURPOSES

- Provide feedstock for livestock
- Provide a source of energy

#### CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies where agricultural wastes including animal manure and contaminated water from livestock and poultry operations; and agricultural processing residues are generated, and/or utilized for livestock feed or as an energy source.

#### CRITERIA

##### General criteria applicable to all purposes

All federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations governing waste management, pollution abatement, health and safety shall be strictly adhered to. The owner or operator shall be responsible for securing any and all required permits or approvals related to waste utilization, and for operating and maintaining any components in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Use of agricultural waste shall be an integral part of the overall waste management system.

Use of agricultural wastes shall be based on at least one analysis of the material before or during the time it is to be used. As a minimum the waste analysis should identify its physical and chemical properties relevant to its intended use.

Where the metal content of the agricultural waste is of a concern, the analysis shall also include determining the concentration of metals in the material.

Records of the use of wastes shall be kept a minimum of five years.

Conservation practices needed to implement waste utilization shall be planned, designed and installed in conformance with the applicable standards.

##### Additional criteria for providing feedstock for livestock

Agricultural wastes to be used for feedstock shall be handled in a manner to minimize contamination, preserve its feed value, and minimize off site pollution. Poultry litter stored for this purpose shall be covered. A qualified animal nutritionist shall develop rations that utilize wastes in keeping with sound bio-security procedures and meeting all applicable federal, state and local animal and human health regulations.

##### Additional criteria for providing a source of energy

All energy producing components of the system shall be included in the waste management plan and provisions for utilization of residues of energy production identified.

Where the residues of energy production are to be land-applied for crop nutrient use or soil conditioning, the criteria listed in Standard 590, Nutrient Management, shall apply.

## **CONSIDERATIONS**

Animal health effects of the utilization should be considered.

Effects on odor during and after the utilization of the waste should be considered.

Changes in the form and content of nutrients as a result of utilization should be considered.

## **PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

Plans and specifications for Waste Utilization shall be in keeping with this standard and shall describe the requirements for implementing the practice to achieve its intended purpose. The waste management plan is to account for the utilization and final disposition of all the agricultural wastes produced.

## **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

A written operation and maintenance plan shall be provided to and reviewed with the landowner/operator. The plan shall include adequate and site specific detail to assure the successful implementation of the practice.

The plan shall include, but not be limited to, the following items.

Records shall be kept for a period of five years and include when appropriate:

- Quantity of manure and other agricultural waste produced
- Dates and amounts of waste utilization for feeding and energy production
- Amounts of waste remaining after treatment and method of disposal of said waste
- Who will be responsible for record keeping

The operation and maintenance plan shall include the frequency of inspections and maintenance of equipment and facilities used in waste utilization. The plan should include what is to be inspected or maintained, and a general time frame for making necessary repairs.

## **REFERENCES**

1. National Agronomy Manual, USDA NRCS
2. Agricultural Waste Management Field Handbook, USDA NRCS